

Subject:	ACTION: Adherence to FAA Order 8110.4B, Type Certification	Date	April 2, 2002
From:	Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, AIR-100	Reply to Attn. of:	
To:	Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, ASW-100		

This memo clarifies FAA policy concerning the release of a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) number.

FAA Order 8110.4B, Type Certification, states that "The STC or STC number shall **not** be released or given to the applicant prior to the date"...of issuance.

Order SW 8100.4D), Rotorcraft Directorate Aircraft Certification Service Quality Manual, paragraphs 504 and 524, authorize the release of an STC number prior to design approval and issuance. This would mistakenly lead a mechanic with an inspection authorization or repairman under a repair station or air carrier certificate to believe that the STC has been issued. This implies that they have approved data that can be used to return an aircraft to service. Any mechanic or repairman who inspected and approved for return to service any product, related part or appliance would be in non-compliance with 14 CFR §§ 65.95(a)(1), 121.379(b) or 145.51 as appropriate to the situation. We are concerned that aircraft certification personnel, who use SW 8100.4D), incorrectly condone airmen to approve aircraft for return to service before the design approval has been finalized.

Please correct Order SW 8100.4D) to ensure that it is consistent with FAA Order 8110.4B. If you have any questions, please contact this office at your convenience.



David Hempe